IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-3 and 6-10 as follows:

A2

1. (Amended) Flaky α-alumina particles having an average major diameter of 0.5 to 25 μm, an aspect ratio, expressed by particle major diameter / average thickness, of greater than 50 to 2000, and produced using a source material that will introduce phosphate ions.

Sub C1

2. (Amended) The flaky α-alumina particles according to claim 1, wherein a phosphoric compound is present in an amount of 0.2% to 5.0% by weight relative to the weight of the alumina particles, and the weight of said compound used in the calculation is the weight of P_2O_5.

3. (Amended) The flaky α-alumina particles according to claim 1, wherein an isoelectric point of the alumina particles at which zeta-potential is 0 is at a pH of 4 to 8.

A3

6. (Amended) A cosmetic containing flaky α-alumina particles having an average major diameter of 0.5 to 25 μm and an aspect ratio, expressed by particle major diameter / average thickness, of greater than 50 to 2000.

Sub C1 Cont

7. (Amended) The cosmetic according to claim 6, in which the flaky α-alumina particles have an average thickness of 0.01 to 0.1 μm and an average particle diameter, in terms of half the sum of the particle diameter in major axis and particle diameter in minor axis, of 0.5 to 15 μm.

8. (Amended) The cosmetic according to claim 6, wherein the flaky α-alumina particles are present in an amount of 1% to 90% by weight, based on the weight of the cosmetic.

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9. (Amended) A cosmetic containing flaky α-alumina particles having an average thickness of 0.01 to 0.1 μm and an average particle diameter, in terms of half the sum of particle diameter in major axis and particle diameter in minor axis, of 0.5 to 15 μm.

10. (Amended) The cosmetic according to claim 9, wherein the flaky α-alumina particles are present in an amount of 1% to 90% by weight, based on the weight of the cosmetic.

Please add new claims 11 and 12 as follows:

11. (New) The cosmetic according to claim 6, wherein a phosphoric compound is present in the alumina particles in an amount of 0.2% to 5.0% by weight relative to the weight of the alumina particles, and the weight of said compound used in the calculation is the weight of P_2O_5.

12. (New) The cosmetic according to claim 6, wherein an isoelectric point of the alumina particles at which zeta-potential is 0 is at a pH of 4 to 8.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the above amendments and the following discussion, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-3 and 6-10 are pending in this application. Claims 11-12 have been added. Support for these claims can be found, at least, in paragraphs 0034, 0035, and 0041 of the specification.

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